

HONORING WILLIAM STALLINGS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Yonkers' most active and dedicated community members, William Stallings, who is being honored at this year's Yonkers Democratic Committee Annual Road to Victory Dinner.

Originally a product of Charleston, South Carolina, Bill attended public school and became very active in the civil rights movement in his junior and senior years of high school. Upon completion of Burke High School he began working at the Citadel, the military college of South Carolina. After a year, he applied to Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and was accepted. At Tuskegee, he enrolled in the Air Force ROTC and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation. His bars were pinned on him by his grandmother and General Daniel "Chappy" James, and while in the Air Force, he reached the rank of Captain.

It was a recruitment by Pepsi Cola that ultimately brought Bill to Westchester County, where he has remained ever since. He became active in the local Democratic Party in 1974 by engaging in local voter registration drives, and later became a District Leader. He is a member of the NAACP and is very active in his church, Greater Centennial AME Zion Church. He has been an officer of the church for over 25 years, was President of the Greater Centennial Federal Credit Union for over 20 years, and is a founding member of the Greater Centennial Community Development Corporation. Bill has also served on the Board of Directors of the Human Development Services of Westchester (HDSW) for the past 20 years and on the Yonkers Democratic City Executive Committee for over 20 years.

Few have done more to help their local community thrive than Bill Stallings. He is most deserving of this wonderful recognition.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HIRAM SPAIN,
JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a great American, and outstanding South Carolinian, Reverend Dr. Hiram Spain, Jr. Dr. Spain, who was simply Hiram to me when we shared classes and hallways at South Carolina State College, is retiring from public service. Dr. Spain served as Executive Secretary of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina since his election in 2000 until his recent retirement.

Dr. Hiram Spain, Jr. is a native of Conway, South Carolina. In addition to graduating with honors from South Carolina State University, he received the degree of Juris Doctor from Howard University. He did additional studies at the University of South Carolina, Morris College Extension and the Columbia International Seminary. He is presently pursuing the Master of Divinity degree at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Dr. Spain was ordained

by the Gethsemane Baptist Association and retired as Pastor of the Saint Mark Baptist Church in Columbia, South Carolina.

During my tenure on the staff of Governor John West, I brought Dr. Spain on board where he headed the program that became the state's first Office of Rural Development to outstanding success. He has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Columbia Urban League and as the first Black Bureau Chief of the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

Dr. Spain serves his community in several civic capacities, including the Board of The United Black Fund of the Midlands, The Executive Board of the Gethsemane Baptist Association, The Board of the South Carolina Christian Action Council, past Board Member of the Communities in Schools of South Carolina, member of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Columbia, Board Member of the I.D. Quincy Newman Institute for social change at the University of South Carolina, Board Member of Partnership, South Carolina, and a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

He has received numerous awards and honors for his civic and community service and was recently honored by the City of Columbia and the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports and Tourism for his outstanding service and leadership. He has never been reluctant to give of his time and energies to civic, professional and community service organizations. His favorite Bible verse is Psalm 121 verses 1 and 2, "I will lift up mine eyes to the Hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

Dr. Spain is married to the former Doris Bush, a Benedict College graduate and retired teacher at W.A. Perry Middle School. They are the parents of two adult children, both of whom are social work administrators.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and this Congress join me in wishing this outstanding South Carolinian, and longtime personal friend, the Reverend Dr. Hiram Spain, Jr., a long and productive retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIRFAX ROTARY CLUB

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Fairfax Rotary Club on their 85th Anniversary of community service this year. The Fairfax Rotary Club was chartered in 1931 and has grown from the original 16 members to 75 members today. This organization brings enormous benefit to the City of Fairfax and surrounding communities. I am very grateful for Fairfax Rotary Club's continued efforts to provide humanitarian service and assistance in the 10th Congressional District.

The Fairfax Rotary Club holds weekly meetings and organizes numerous charitable events in order to benefit the community. Their activities range from fundraising to acts of hands-on community service. Some examples of their generous deeds include creating col-

lege scholarships for local students, doing home repairs free of charge, providing free meals to families in need, and raising money for many other charitable causes, such as polio and access to clean water.

The members of the Fairfax Rotary Club are true pillars of their community, and I am proud to represent such service-minded citizens. This organization has a history of providing a setting that fosters fellowship between its members and that enables them to have a positive impact in the world. I applaud the Fairfax City Council's decision to honor this organization by declaring September 25th Fairfax Rotary Club Day in the city.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in recognizing the 85th Anniversary of the Fairfax Rotary Club and thanking its members for all of the selfless community service work they undertake. I hope that the members of this service organization will continue to find success in their endeavors for many years to come.

HONORING JUDGE TODD J.
CAMPBELL

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Todd J. Campbell on his retirement from the federal bench.

A graduate of Vanderbilt University and the University of Tennessee College of Law, Judge Campbell started his legal career in private practice. After the 1992 election, he joined President-elect Bill Clinton's transition team and later became counsel to Vice President Al Gore.

In 1995, President Clinton nominated Judge Campbell to fill a vacant seat on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee. Judge Campbell was confirmed the same year by the U.S. Senate, becoming one of America's youngest federal judges in modern times. He eventually was elevated to chief judge, serving many years in that role.

Judge Campbell has led a distinguished career on the federal bench, and he is a pillar of our community. For example, he has led more than 100 naturalization ceremonies, often relating his own family immigration history to Middle Tennessee's newest citizens.

Federal Public Defender Henry Martin best captured Judge Campbell in a recent letter to the editor published in The Tennessean newspaper:

Judge Todd Campbell's announced retirement as a United States District Judge last week was sad news to anyone interested in justice in this community.

I am confident that every lawyer and litigant experienced what I saw there for 20-plus years: an exceedingly well-prepared judge who favored neither side, but treated all who appeared before him with respect, courtesy and usually a smile. I always warned lawyers about to appear in Judge Campbell's court for the first time to be prepared: "he will have read every case you cited, that your adversary cited and ask you about cases you missed that he had found. Then he would listen."

The challenge of determining what the law is in a particular situation and then applying it fairly to complex facts, where the outcome

has a life-changing impact on the people in the case is not only intellectually demanding, but emotionally and physically exhausting. It can also be lonely and thankless work. And yet, Judge Campbell always took the time to thank the lawyers who took indigent defense appointments and was quick to proclaim how important their work was to the preservation of constitutional liberties.

The founders of this country knew that the viability of a society operating under the rule of law depended on the selection of judges who had the intellect to decipher the law, the common sense to shape it to fit human behavior and the courage and integrity to decide controversial issues regardless of popular sentiment.

For better than 20 years Judge Campbell gave exactly that to this community. We are the better for that service and owe him our utmost gratitude.

Henry A. Martin, Federal Public Defender, Nashville 37203.

Judge Campbell has dedicated himself to the federal bench every day he has served. I want to thank Judge Campbell, his wife, Margaret, and their children, Seth and Holt. Judge Campbell represents the very best of our judicial traditions, and I thank him for his long and patriotic service.

HONORING WILLIAM SCRIBNER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an amazing artist and a true friend, William Scribner. Bill as he was better known brought so much light and beauty to the Bronx through his music, and his contributions to our borough will never be forgotten.

Renowned as one of New York's finest bassoonists, Bill always looked for ways to share his amazing gift with the world and spread his love of music to others. In 1972, he founded the Bronx Arts Ensemble, the premier professional music organization in the Bronx. With a mission to "nourish the arts in the Bronx, serving its diverse communities and developing audiences through arts education and musical performances of the highest professional standard," the organization has touched the lives of thousands of people over the years with their unique performances and beautiful shows. This is largely due in part to Bill's exceptional work, and the amazing assemblage of talent he nurtured and put together.

In addition to presenting over 100 concerts a year, the Bronx Arts Ensemble also specializes in an arts-in-education programming in over 40 schools in the Bronx and beyond with instruction in music, drama, dance, visual arts, capoeira, drumming and more.

Yet for all of Bill's incredible work bringing the arts to the Bronx, his first love was always his family. The beloved husband of Marsha Heller and loving father of Andrew Scribner, Bill is also survived by sister Janice Freeman, cousin Nancy Wirth, stepson Joshua Marantz, and first wife Louise Scribner.

Bill brought so much joy to our community, and enriched the lives of so many. Through the Bronx Arts Ensemble his legacy shall forever live on, and for that I am very thankful. It is an honor to celebrate his amazing life here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRAN PAVLEY OF AGOURA HILLS

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of my friend Senator Fran Pavley. I had the honor of serving with Fran in both the State Assembly and State Senate. Fran is an extraordinary individual who strove to ensure her community, state, and nation's best interests came first. Her legislative accomplishments are legendary.

Over the last 14 years, Fran became a titan when it came to developing innovative climate change solutions. Her laws elevated California's status as a global leader in fighting climate change and promoting sustainable clean energy. Her bill AB 32, of which I was a co-author, became a model for climate change legislation in other states, nationally and internationally.

With California experiencing severe drought, Fran championed smart water policy by encouraging conservation, recycling, storm water capture, and ground water clean-up. Fran also passed legislation that increased fuel efficiency standards in California. Her law was then modeled at the federal level.

Fran also introduced legislation to encourage more college students to become teachers. In 2015, California had 43,000 teacher vacancies and one of the highest student-teacher ratios in the country. To reduce this burden, Fran presented legislation that would reinstate a loan forgiveness program to motivate more students to pursue a career in teaching.

In addition to Fran's exemplary record of protecting the environment and supporting teachers, she also passed a law that allowed women to receive up to a 12 month supply of birth control prescriptions at one time. Passage of this law was lauded by many health care providers because it reduced the stress of having women acquire birth control on a monthly or quarterly basis.

These tremendous accomplishments cut across various fields and demonstrate Fran's enormous impact. Fran's legacy in the community, state and country will be felt for generations to come.

Actually, this is Fran's second retirement. Prior to serving 14 years in the legislature, Fran was a beloved middle school teacher for 28 years.

After retiring, Fran will continue to spearhead the creation of the first urban and largest wildlife crossing at Liberty Canyon in Agoura Hills. I wish Fran, her husband, and children many years of happiness and good health.

LIBYA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for six months, the U.S.-backed troops of the interim Libyan Government of National Accord has been fighting street by street to retake the ISIS stronghold of Sirte on the Libyan coast.

ISIS seized control of the city in early 2015 and extended its control along about 155 miles of Libya's coastline. That means that ISIS wields its influence over a territory roughly the distance from Houston to San Antonio.

How did the U.S. get here? How did Libya become an incubator for all stripes of terrorists?

In 2008, U.S. military leaders were calling Libya a top U.S. ally in combating international terrorism. Qaddafi realized that his regime was the target of terrorism, and he changed course from supporting terrorists in the 1980s to siding with the U.S. against the terrorist threat.

However, in 2011, in the midst of a rebellion against the Qaddafi regime, the U.S. decided to intervene and establish a no-fly zone to aid the Libyan rebels.

Under the safety of the no-fly zone the U.S. imposed, Islamist terrorist groups long subdued under Qaddafi's regime sprung up and amassed weapons, training, and military training.

Qaddafi was ultimately killed in October 2011. Within days, NATO and U.S. forces packed up and left Libya to its own devices.

America's only Libya policy at the time was to remove Qaddafi—there was little planning regarding what to do the day after. The U.S. opened the Pandora's box and looked away.

Almost immediately after Qaddafi's ouster, Libya spiraled into chaos. Long simmering political, regional, and ethnic divisions suddenly emerged and set Libya on a path towards disaster. The country has never recovered.

Even the Administration has admitted its role in Libya's failure. Earlier this year, the President admitted that there was no plan for post-Qaddafi Libya, describing it as his biggest regret as President.

Libya has become a regional and international security threat due to this Administration's lack of planning. ISIS and al-Qaeda are the main beneficiaries.

Al-Qaeda's Libyan affiliate, Ansar al-Shariah, emerged shortly after Qaddafi's death and has since become deeply entrenched in the country.

They have successfully filled the void the U.S. helped create by providing social services—building schools and providing medical care.

But they did not stop there. They recruited, armed, and trained terrorist fighters intent on carrying out the group's ultimate goal: imposing Islamic law on the country.

Ansar al-Shariah fighters were among those who ultimately attacked the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi in 2012, killing Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three of his colleagues.

Since then, things have gotten worse. ISIS announced the establishment of a Libyan affiliate at the end of 2014 and soon began consolidating its power around Sirte and expanding east, west, and south.

America should not fool itself into believing that once Sirte is liberated the ISIS threat is over. For close to a year now, ISIS has been redirecting recruits and even senior leaders to Libya. It has been laying the seeds for what many have called a "fallback Caliphate," where it could retreat to in case it is pushed out of Syria and Iraq.

Pentagon estimates from earlier this year suggested that the group's ranks in Libya have swelled to nearly 7,000 fighters.

Liberating Sirte will simply transform the ISIS threat in Libya from a concentrated one